

July 15, 2005



Senate Hispanic Briefing Room

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Office of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, M.D.

WEEKLY NEWS

FRIST PRAISES NATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRESS REPORT

*“Nation’s Report Card” reflects improvements in
minority student achievement*

“Today’s report provides concrete evidence that the No Child Left Behind Act has given us a working blueprint for restoring accountability and responsibility in America’s schools. For too long, too many students have been left to languish in our classrooms, trapped in a system fraught with low expectations and little accountability.

“These compelling results show that we’re beginning to successfully stem the tide of low expectations and little achievement. The report reflects significant gains for students of all ages, races and ethnicities, and I’m particularly pleased by the rapidly rising achievement levels of African-American and Hispanic students.

“Thanks to President Bush and Congress’ efforts, we’re beginning to successfully close the achievement gap and reform our nation’s troubled school systems. By empowering our students and instituting rigorous and fair educational standards, we are bringing accountability back into America’s schools, while promoting freedom and flexibility in the classroom. Though more work remains, I’m heartened by today’s report, and confident it provides further evidence that our education policies are ensuring America’s schools have the resources they need to help all students succeed.”

The NAEP measures student proficiency in various subject areas, and since its creation in 1971 has been the gold standard used to assess learning in each state and nationwide. This test measures knowledge of 9-year-old, 13-year-old and 17-year-old students, and is the first long-term assessment conducted by NAEP since 1999. According to the data released today by the National Center for Education Statistics:

African-American & Hispanic 9-year-olds are posting their highest scores ever in reading and math;

More than half of the progress in reading seen in the Report’s 30-plus year history has come in the last five years, further demonstrating that NCLB is working; and

Thirteen-year-olds earned the highest math scores the report has ever recorded.

Excerpt from Dr. Frist’s Floor Statement On Upcoming Supreme Court Confirmation Process

“Again, consultation does not mean co-nomination. Consultation is a courtesy of the president. And it works two ways. If he extends it to us, as he has, we should extend it to him.

“As we look ahead, most senators face a relatively new challenge in a Supreme Court nomination. Amazingly, more than half of us were not here 11 years ago when the Senate last confirmed a Supreme Court nominee.

“But I am confident we will rise to the occasion. We should work together to ensure that the nominations process is fair, dignified and respectful. And we should make sure that a new justice is confirmed before the Supreme Court begins its new term on October 3rd.

Supreme Court Confirmation Center



FACTS on the NOMINATION PROCESS

Everyone agrees that Senators may suggest nominees to a President. Sometimes Presidents agree with the suggestions and sometimes they do not. This White House has followed this practice.

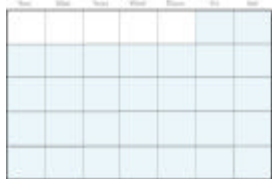
The Constitution gives the right to nominate to the President – not the Senate Minority Leadership. Article II, section 2 states that the President “shall nominate” and the Senate shall provide “Advice and Consent.”

Alexander Hamilton was the delegate at the Constitutional Convention who first proposed dividing the appointment power between the President and the Senate. Hamilton described his proposal as giving the Senate only “the right of rejecting or approving.”

The other delegates seemed to understand the proposal the same way. As historian Joseph Harris explained, “The debates of the Convention indicate that ‘advice and consent’ was regarded as simply vote of approval or rejection. The phrase was used as synonymous with ‘approbation,’ ‘concurrence,’ and ‘approval,’ and the power of the Senate was spoken of as a ‘negative’ on the appointment by the President.” James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, George Washington, John Jay, and James Monroe all agreed that the nominating power belongs to the President alone.

United States Senate The Week Ahead

At 10:00 a.m., the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 3057, the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill.



Join The Frist Senate Hispanic Leadership Team

We need individuals like you to help us get the message out. Please e-mail me at noe_garcia@frist.senate.gov if you are ready to join the FRIST TEAM.